GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:44
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since April 2002 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) their reactions towards the tension on the Indo-Pak border;

(d) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) - (e) : Sir, Visits of a number of foreign dignitaries have taken place during this period. A statement giving information with regard to the visits handled by the Ministry of External Affairs is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (A) - (E) OF THE ANSWER TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 ANSWER ON 17.7.2002 REGARDING `VISIT OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES`

Sl. No	Name of the dignitary with designation and dates of visit	Issues on which deliberations held	Their reaction towards the tension on the Indo-Pak border	Details of bilateral agreements signed, if any
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1.	H.E. Mrs. Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia (1-5 April, 2002)	President Megawati was accompanied by a large business delegation. President Megawati underlined the need to develop co-operation in various fields especially in trade, investment, health and human resource development, science and technology, agriculture, ecological conservation, information technology and other areas of common concern. India`s interests in participation in railway projects in	Indonesia has traditionally shown understanding of our position.	1. Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders. 2. MOU between the Indian Space Research Organisation and National Institute of Aeronautics and Space on co-operation in the field of

		Indonesia, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between two countries in telecommunications, power projects and port development were conveyed. Co-operation in IT and Space were also discussed. India offered to extend support to Indonesia in their setting up of Film & Television Institute and Institute of Fashion Design in Indonesia. Proposal to set up chairs of Indonesian and Indian studies in Universities in India and Indonesia respectively was mooted. India announced setting up of India-ASEAN Bio-Technology Centre and India-ASEAN Science & Technology Digital Library, both in Jakarta.	Outer Space Research and Development. MOU concerning setting up of Vocational Training Centre for constructio n sector. Besides, nine other business-to-business MOUs were also signed.
2. H.E. Vladimir Rushailo, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation (2-5 April, 2002)	Mr. Bilateral and regional and international issues of mutual interest were discussed between India and the Russian Federation.	The Russian side reiterated its strong condemnation of continued acts of trans-border terrorism against India and expressed its understandin g and support regarding India`s justified demands that these activities from Pakistan and territories controlled by it cease completely.	A Joint Statement was issued at the end of the visit.
3. H.E. Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland (16-17 April, 2002)	Bilateral issues, regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil.
4. H.E. Alexander Downer, Foreign	Mr. Both sides undertook a review of bilateral and regional issues, India	Appreciating the manner in was	MOU on Co-operation in the Area of Tourism.

Minister of Australia (20-23 April, 2002)	covering political, defence, economic, trade and strategic areas including co-operation in energy security and people-to-people contacts. Views were exchanged on international terrorism, Commonwealth and regional issues such as strategic involvement of major powers in the region, developments in South Asia, ASEAN and the Asia Pacific.	tackling the problem faced on account of terrorism in Kashmir, Dr. Downer noted that tension in Kashmir was lower. He also said that the Pakistanis seemed to be making some efforts.		
5. H.E. President Laurent Gbagbo of Cote d`Ivoire (21-23 May, 2002)	Transit Visit	-	-	
6. H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, (21-24 April 2002)	Bilateral issues, regional and global developments of mutual concern.	Concern was expressed.	Nil.	
7. H.E. President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (22-26 April, 2002)	The discussions covered a broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments. She delivered the first Madhav Rao Scindia memorial lecture on April 23, 2002 on `Managing Change and Diversity`.	The Sri Lankan Government agreed that global terrorism is a threat to internationa l peace and security.	Nil.	
8. H.E. Mr. Per Stig Moller, Danish Foreign Minister (29-30 April, 2002)	Bilateral and regional and global developments of mutual concern.	issues Concern was expressed.	Nil.	
9. H.E. Mr. Sadok Fayala, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs - in charge of Maghreb & African Affairs, Tunisia (05 - 07 May 2002)	He co-chaired the 9th Session of Tunisian - India Joint Commission Meeting. All issues of mutual concern were discussed.	the Issue discussed since the agenda of his meeting was economic.	not Protocol for cooperation between Foreign Service Institute of Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute for	
Diplomatic				

Studies of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia.				
2. MOU between Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi & The Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA), Tunis.				
10. H.R.H. Prince Ulukala Lavaka Ata, Prime Minister of Tonga (18-21 May, 2002)	Agriculture the Tonga`s delegation expressed a keen interest in co-operation with India in agricultural sector. Both sides also exchanged views on India`s interest in expanding relations with countries of the South Pacific.	being mainstay economy, visiting	The was oriented.	visit Nil.
11. H.E. Dr. Kamal Kharazi, Foreign Minister of The Islamic Republic of Iran (20-22 May, 2002)	He co-chaired the 12th India-Iran Joint Commission. The Joint Commission Meeting reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including in the sphere of petroleum and natural gas, trade and industry, transport and communications, agriculture and rural development and consular, culture, information and science and technology.	Dr. Kamal Kharazi urged for de-escalation of tension on Indo-Pak border and peaceful resolution of all disputes between India and Pakistan through dialogue. He said that Iran condemns and terrorism in all its forms.	12th India-Iran Joint Commission.	MOU of the
12. H.E. Mr. Ruud Lubbers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (22-24 May, 2002)	Deliberations focussed on co-operation between the UNHCR and the activities of the UN Organisation globally and in the country.	The was raised in view of the nature of the UN	issue not	Nil.
13. H.E. Mr. Chris Patten,	Bilateral and Regional issues.	and	Expressed concern over	Nil.

European Commissioner for External Affairs (24 May, 2002)		situation on the border.	
14. H.E. Mr. Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary (28 May 2002)	Bilateral and Regional issues.	Expressed concern over situation on the border.	Nil.
15. H.E. Mr. Seiken Suigura, Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs (30-31 May 2002) was that Japan would like to see visible and concrete action by way of implementation of the assurances that President Musharraf gave to PM Koizumi about not exporting terrorism anywhere in the world and not allowing infiltration across the LOC. He also said that Pakistan should take appropriate measures against terrorist camps on Pakistan`s side of the LOC.	His visit was in the context of the tension between India and Pakistan.	Mr. Suigura said that his message to Pakistan during his visit to that country before coming here	Nil.
16. H.E. Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (June 8-12, 2002)	Broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments.	The Sri Lankan Government agreed that global terrorism is a threat to international peace and security.	Nil.
17. H.E. Morshed Khan, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh (16-17 June,	Mr. Broad range of bilateral issues and regional developments.	He conveyed the concern of Bangladesh over tensions on	Nil.

2002)			the Indo-Pakistan border.	
18. His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal (23-28 June, 2002) including in trade and economic fields discussed.	Issues relating to terrorism, Maoist insurgency in Nepal as well as bilateral cooperation in the misusing Nepalese territory for subversive activities against India. King Gyanendra reiterated that Nepal will not allow its territory to be misused for activities directed against India and assured co-operation in this regard.	We explained our position and also our concern regarding the ISI were set up by the business chambers of the two countries for developing cooperation in the fields of water resources and tourism development.)	(On the margins of the visit, two Joint Task Forces	Nil.